

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 01365 171327Z

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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CAIRO PASS VANCE PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJ: SAUDI PRESS COVERAGE, VANCE MISSION, FEBRUARY 17

1. SUMMARY: TODAY'S SAUDI PRESS AGAIN FEATURED FOUR EDITORIALS RELATING TO VANCE MISSION: TWO EACH APPEARED IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARAB NEWS AND ARABIC-LANGUAGE AL-MADINA. MAIN THEMES WERE MODERATE POSTURE OF ARABS IN SEEKING MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT AND RECENT ISRAELI SETBACKS CONCERNING PURCHASE CONCUSSION BOMBS, SALE KIFIR JETS TO ECUADOR AND SINAI OIL PROSPECTING. PROMINENT NEWS ITEMS RELATING TO VANCE MISSION INCLUDED CROWN PRINCE FAHD'S REMARKS TO JAPANESE ECONOMIC DELEGATION IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED HOPE MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS WOULD SUCCEED AND REPORT OF TALKS BETWEEN RABIN AND VANCE. MISSION AND RELATED NEWS ITEMS RECEIVED EXTENSIVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE IN ARAB NEWS WHILE OTHER NEWSPAPERS FOCUSSED ON KING KHALID'S

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CONDITION AFTER SUCCESSFUL OPERATION, MINISTER PETROLEUM YAMANI INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN WALL STREET JOURNAL AND VISIT OF MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER. END SUMMARY.

2. BELOW ARE EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIALS:

--ARAB NEWS: "ONLY THE AMERICANS CAN MAKE PEACE IN THE

MIDDLE EAST OR WRECK ITS CHANCES COMPLETELY, AND THEY
STAND TO WIN OR LOSE AS MUCH AS THE PARTIES DIRECTLY
CONCERNED..."

--AL-MADINA: "ARAB STATES HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR
READINESS TO COOPERATE FOR THE SAKE OF
A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND, AS SUCH, ALL THE ARAB
STATES HAVE ADOPTED A MODERATE STANCE ON THE CRISIS.
BUT THE ZIONIST SIDE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE INTERESTED
IN PEACE..."

--CONCERNING THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S RECENT
REBUFFS TO ISRAEL, ARAB NEWS STATED: "PRESIDENT
CARTER SEEMS TO BE GIVING SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE
A RELATIVELY FREE HAND IN RESTRUCTURING AMERICA'S
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE JEWISH STATE. AND MR VANCE,
AN OLD STATE DEPARTMENT HAND, IS REFLECTING A GROWING
OPINION IN THE HALLS OF FOGGY BOTTOM THAT THE ISRAELIS
ARE IN NEED OF HAVING THEIR WINGS CLIPPED."
SABBAGH

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